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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 60

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/46/673)]

46/36. General and complete disarmament

The General Assembly,

A

Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/72 of 10 December 1976, in which it referred the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques to all States for their consideration, signature and ratification and expressed the hope for the widest possible adherence to the Convention,

Noting that the second paragraph of article VIII of the Final Declaration of the First Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention, 1/ held in September 1984, provides that:

> "The Conference, recognizing the importance of the review mechanism provided in article VIII, decides that a second Review Conference may be held at Geneva at the request of a majority of States Parties not earlier than 1989. If no Review Conference is held before 1994 the Depositary is requested to solicit the views of all States Parties concerning the convening of such a Conference in accordance with article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Convention",

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1/ See First Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, Final Document (ENMOD/CONF.1/13) (Geneva, 1984), part II.

1. Notes that, as a result of consultations, a majority of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques have expressed their wish to convene the Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention in September 1992 and that, to that end, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary of the Convention, will hold consultations with the parties to the Convention with regard to questions relating to the Conference and its preparation, including the establishment of a preparatory committee for the Conference;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the Second Review Conference and its preparation;

3. Also notes that arrangements for meeting the costs of the Second Review Conference and its preparation are to be made by the Conference.

65th plenary meeting
6 December 1991

B

Study on charting potential uses of resources allocated to military activities for civilian endeavours to protect the environment

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General transmitting the study on charting potential uses of resources allocated to military activities for civilian endeavors to protect the environment, 2/

Desirous of benefiting from progress in disarmament within the endeavours to protect the environment,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the report to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to arrange for the reproduction of the study as a United Nations publication and to give it the widest possible distribution;

4. Commends the study to the attention of all Member States.

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2/ A/46/364.

C

Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 3/ related to the relationship between disarmament and development,

Recalling also the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, 4/

Stressing the growing importance of the relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General 5/ and actions undertaken in accordance with the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference; 6/

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

65th plenary meeting
6 December 1991

D

Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/58 L of 4 December 1990 and previous resolutions, in which it requested the Conference on Disarmament, at an appropriate stage of the implementation of the Programme of Action set forth

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3/ Resolution S-10/2.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8.

5/ A/46/527.

6/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8, para. 35.

in section III of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/ and of its work on the item entitled "Nuclear weapons in all aspects", to consider urgently the question of adequately verified cessation and prohibition of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and to keep the Assembly informed of the progress of that consideration,

Noting that the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament for 1991 included the item entitled "Nuclear weapons in all aspects" and that the programme of work of the Conference for all three parts of its 1991 session contained the item entitled "Cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament", 7/

Recalling the proposals and statements made in the Conference on Disarmament on those items, 8/

Welcoming the improved relationship between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America and their consequent announcements of significant measures, which could signal the reversal of the nuclear-arms race,

Considering that the cessation of production of fissionable material for weapons purposes and the progressive conversion and transfer of stocks to peaceful uses would also be a significant step towards halting and reversing the nuclear-arms race,

Considering also that the prohibition of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices would be an important measure in facilitating the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and explosive devices,

1. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, under the item entitled "Nuclear weapons in all aspects", to continue to pursue its consideration of the question of adequately verified cessation and prohibition of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and to keep the General Assembly informed of the progress of that consideration;

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes".

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7/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/46/27), para. 6.

8/ Ibid., sect. III.A and B.

E

Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/58 F of 4 December 1990,

1. Takes note of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 1991 session that deals with the question of radiological weapons, in particular the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Radiological Weapons; 9/

2. Recognizes that in 1991 the Ad Hoc Committee made a further contribution to the clarification and better understanding of different approaches that continue to exist with regard to both of the important matters under consideration;

3. Takes note also of the recommendation of the Conference on Disarmament that the Ad Hoc Committee on Radiological Weapons should be re-established at the beginning of its 1992 session;

4. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to continue its substantive negotiation on the subject with a view to the prompt conclusion of its work, taking into account all proposals presented to the Conference to this end and drawing upon the annexes to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee as a basis of its future work, the result of which should be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all relevant documents relating to the discussion of all aspects of the issue by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons".

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F

Regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/116 S, 44/116 U and 44/117 B of 15 December 1989 and 45/58 M and 45/58 P of 4 December 1990,

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9/ Ibid., Supplement No. 27 (A/46/27), para. 95.

Considering that the adoption of regional disarmament measures is one of the most effective means by which States can contribute to international security, arms limitation and disarmament,

Recognizing that the regional and global approaches to disarmament complement each other and can be pursued simultaneously in the promotion of regional and international peace and security,

Noting that the recent events in the Middle East have underlined the importance of regional disarmament and that they justify in particular the search for a comprehensive and balanced control of armaments in the region, notably through a dialogue among the States of that region,

Convinced that disarmament can be carried out only in a climate of confidence based on mutual respect and aimed at ensuring better relations founded on justice, solidarity and cooperation,

Noting also that the volume of resources consumed for potentially destructive purposes is in stark contrast to social and economic development needs but that reduction in military expenditure following, inter alia, the conclusion of regional disarmament agreements could entail benefits in both the social and economic fields,

Considering that regional disarmament measures should be aimed at establishing a military balance at the lowest level while not diminishing the security of each State and at eliminating as a matter of priority the capability for surprise attacks and large-scale offensive action,

Noting further that disarmament measures in one region should not lead to increased arms transfers to other regions,

Considering also that measures of transparency are one of the essential elements in the implementation of regional disarmament,

Persuaded that verification measures are important to ensure compliance with regional agreements on arms control and disarmament,

1. Reaffirms that the regional approach to disarmament is one of the essential elements in the global process of disarmament;

2. Is convinced of the importance and effectiveness of regional disarmament measures taken at the initiative of States of the region and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, in that they can contribute to the security and stability of all States, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in compliance with international law and existing treaties;

3. Stresses the importance of confidence-building measures in ensuring the success of this process;

4. Notes with satisfaction the important progress made in various regions of the world through the conclusion of peace, security and cooperation agreements and following from the implementation of measures intended to enhance confidence in the fields of political, economic and military cooperation;

5. Affirms that regional and subregional agreements on arms control and disarmament can contribute to the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts;

6. Recognizes the useful role played by the regional centres of the United Nations;

7. Encourages States of the same region to examine the possibility of creating, on their own initiative, regional mechanisms and/or institutions for the establishment of measures in the framework of an effort of regional disarmament or for the prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts with the assistance, if requested, of the United Nations;

8. Stresses that confidence-building measures, including objective information on military activities and capabilities, are essential to the promotion of arms control and disarmament at the regional level;

9. Believes that regional initiatives should enjoy the support of all States of the region concerned and the respect of those outside that region;

10. Invites and encourages all States to conclude, whenever possible, agreements on disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional level.

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G

Confidence- and security-building measures and conventional disarmament in Europe

The General Assembly,

Determined to achieve progress in disarmament,

Stressing that confidence-building and disarmament measures have a positive impact on international security and are facilitated by the reduction of tensions,

Noting the work accomplished in 1991 by the Disarmament Commission within the framework of the Working Groups on its agenda items 4 and 6, 10/

Expressing the hope that the improved international climate will facilitate the necessary efforts to build confidence, to lessen the risk of military confrontation and to enhance mutual security,

Recalling its resolutions 43/75 P of 7 December 1988, 44/116 I of 15 December 1989 and 45/58 I of 4 December 1990,

Reaffirming the great importance of increasing security and stability in Europe through the establishment of a stable, secure and verifiable balance of conventional armed forces at lower levels, as well as through increased openness and predictability of military activities,

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10/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/46/42), paras. 39 and 41.

Considering that the positive results of the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures, as well as of those on conventional armaments and forces, both within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, have considerably increased confidence and improved security and cooperation in Europe, thereby contributing to international peace and security,

Welcoming the prospects for the early implementation of the measures agreed upon and the continuation of negotiations in these fields among the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe,

1. Notes with satisfaction the progress achieved so far in the process of disarmament and the strengthening of confidence and security in Europe;

2. Welcomes the determination of the States signatories of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe fully to implement its provisions and the determination of all the States participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe fully to implement the provisions of the Vienna Document of the negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures, as well as the decision of these States to continue negotiations in these fields;

3. Invites all States to consider the possibility of taking appropriate measures with a view to reducing the risk of confrontation and strengthening security, taking due account of their specific regional conditions.

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H

International arms transfers

The General Assembly,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve underlying conflicts, to diminish tensions and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of armaments,

Recognizing that the international transfer and production of conventional arms, including advanced weapons, delivery systems and military technology, have in recent decades acquired a dimension and qualitative characteristics that can give rise to serious and urgent concerns,

Greatly concerned by the illicit arms trade, a most disturbing and dangerous phenomenon, because of its destabilizing and destructive effects, particularly for the internal situation of affected States and the violation of human rights,

Recalling that in paragraph 85 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 3/ it urged major arms supplier and recipient countries to consult on the limitation of all types of international transfers of conventional arms,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Realizing that arms obtained through the illicit arms trade are most likely to be used for violent purposes, and that even small arms when so obtained, directly or indirectly, by terrorist groups, drug traffickers or underground organizations can pose a danger to regional and international security, and certainly to the security and political stability of the countries affected,

Considering that the illicit arms trade, representing a distinctly unique phenomenon, by its clandestine nature defies transparency and could not be dealt with by an arms transfers register,

Recalling its resolution 43/75 I of 7 December 1988,

Welcoming the study submitted by the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 43/75 I and prepared with the assistance of governmental experts, on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms, 11/ as well as the problem of the illicit arms trade,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the study on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms;

2. Calls upon all States to give high priority to eradicating the illicit trade in all kinds of weapons and military equipment, a most disturbing and dangerous phenomenon often associated with terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime and mercenary and other destabilizing activities, and to take urgent action towards this end, as recommended in the study submitted by the Secretary-General;

3. Urges Member States to exercise effective control over their weapons and military equipment and their arms imports and exports to prevent them from getting into the hands of parties engaged in the illicit arms trade;

4. Also urges Member States to ensure that they have in place an adequate body of laws and administrative machinery for regulating and monitoring effectively their transfer of arms, to strengthen or adopt strict measures for their enforcement, and to cooperate at the international, regional and subregional levels to harmonize, where appropriate, relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures as well as their enforcement measures, with the goal of eradicating the illicit arms trade as stated in the recommendations in the study 12/;

5. Invites Member States to provide the Secretary-General with relevant information on their national legislation and/or regulations on arms exports,

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11/ A/46/301, annex.

12/ Ibid., paras. 161-165.

imports and procurement, and administrative procedures, as regards both authorization of arms transfers and prevention of the illicit arms trade;

6. Calls upon affected States to provide the Secretary-General, in accordance with national judicial procedures, information regarding arms and military equipment, seized by authorities, destined for the use of terrorists, drug traffickers and organized crime and for mercenary and other destabilizing activities, when this would assist the eradication of the illicit arms trade;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to make available for consultation by Member States the information referred to in paragraph 5 above, and to publish the information provided in connection with paragraph 6 above;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to assist, upon request and within available resources, in holding meetings and seminars at the national, regional and international levels, as pertinent, with a view to:

(a) Promoting the concept of transparency as a confidence-building measure;

(b) Increasing the awareness of the destructive and destabilizing effects of the illicit traffic in arms and to exploring ways and means for its eradication;

(c) Promoting the development of internationally harmonized laws and administrative procedures relating to official arms procurement and arms transfer policies;

(d) Promoting regional and international efforts to eradicate the illicit traffic in arms and providing advisory assistance to Member States, when so requested, on measures for enforcement of relevant rules and administrative procedures as recommended in the study, with a view to, inter alia, facilitating cooperation between Member States in the training of their customs and other appropriate officials;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on progress made in implementing the present resolution;

10. Requests the Disarmament Commission, at its organizational session in 1992, to consider including the issue of international arms transfers in the agenda of its substantive session in 1993;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "International arms transfers".

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I

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/58 P of 4 December 1990 on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly, 3/

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of smaller States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. Stresses that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. Affirms that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. Calls upon States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels;

4. Welcomes the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. Supports and encourages efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at regional and subregional levels;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

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J

Bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions,

Mindful that it is the responsibility and obligation of all States to contribute to the process of the relaxation of tension and to the strengthening of international security,

Stressing the importance of the strengthening of international security through disarmament and the halting of the qualitative and quantitative escalation of the arms race,

Stressing also that general and complete disarmament under effective international control is by its very nature unattainable unless all States have the responsibility and join in adopting and implementing measures towards that objective,

Emphasizing that nuclear disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war remains one of the principal tasks of our times,

Concerned that the world is still threatened by the significant nuclear arsenals and that the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, with the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, rests with the nuclear-weapon States, in particular those which possess the largest nuclear arsenals,

Noting with satisfaction the positive developments in the current international scene, in particular the cooperation between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, which contributes to the process of general and complete disarmament and the strengthening of international security,

Recalling that, at their meeting in Washington in 1990, the leaders of the two major nuclear Powers, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, agreed to pursue, among other efforts, new talks on the relationship between strategic offensive and defensive arms,

Welcoming the decision of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to suspend all nuclear tests throughout the next twelve months as a contribution towards the achievement of a comprehensive test-ban treaty,

Convinced that the international community should encourage the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the United States of America in their endeavours in the process leading to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Affirming that bilateral and multilateral negotiations on disarmament should facilitate and complement each other,

1. Expresses its satisfaction at the continued implementation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, 13/ in particular at the completion by both parties of the destruction of all their declared missiles subject to elimination under the Treaty;

2. Welcomes the signing of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms by the President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the President of the United States of America in Moscow on 31 July 1991;

3. Also welcomes the unilateral decision announced by the President of the United States of America on 27 September 1991 significantly to reduce the size and nature of United States nuclear deployments worldwide and to enhance stability, as well as the similar steps announced by the President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 5 October 1991, in response to that decision;

4. Recalls the stated intention of the two Governments concerned to intensify, following the signature of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, further negotiations on other issues, in particular on preventing an arms race in space and achieving a comprehensive nuclear-test ban;

5. Encourages and supports the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America in their efforts to reduce their nuclear armaments and to give future negotiations the highest priority;

6. Invites the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to keep other Members of the United Nations duly informed of progress in their negotiations.

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13/ The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 12: 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.IX.2), appendix VII.

K

Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153 (XLVIII) of 1988 14/ and CM/Res.1225 (L) of 1989 15/ concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIII)/RES/509 on the dumping of nuclear wastes, adopted on 29 September 1989 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-third regular session, 16/

Welcoming also resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session, 17/

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, 18/ inter alia, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa, 19/

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security and in particular for the security of developing countries,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly, 3/

Aware also of the consideration of the question of dumping of radioactive wastes in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1991 session,

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14/ See A/43/398, annex I.

15/ See A/44/603, annex I.

16/ See International Atomic Energy Agency, Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-third Regular Session, 25-29 September 1989.

17/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Regular Session, 17-21 September 1990.

18/ The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

19/ See A/46/390, annex I.

Recalling its resolution 45/58 K of 4 December 1990, in which it requested the Conference on Disarmament to include in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session the developments in the ongoing negotiations on this subject,

1. Takes note of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons; 20/

2. Expresses grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. Calls upon all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the ongoing negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

5. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session the progress recorded in the ongoing negotiations on this subject;

6. Takes note of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

7. Expresses the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. Requests the International Atomic Energy Agency to continue keeping the subject under active review, including the desirability of concluding a legally binding instrument in this field;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

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L

Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Realizing that excessive and destabilizing arms build-ups pose a threat

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20/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/46/27), para. 95.

to national, regional and international peace and security, particularly by aggravating tensions and conflict situations, giving rise to serious and urgent concerns,

Noting with satisfaction that the current international environment and recent agreements and measures in the field of arms limitation and disarmament make it a propitious time to work towards easing tensions and a just resolution of conflict situations, as well as more openness and transparency in military matters,

Recalling the consensus among Member States on implementing confidence-building measures, including transparency and exchange of relevant information on armaments, likely to reduce the occurrence of dangerous misperceptions about the intentions of States and to promote trust among States,

Considering that increased openness and transparency in the field of armaments could enhance confidence, ease tensions, strengthen regional and international peace and security and contribute to restraint in military production and the transfer of arms,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve underlying conflicts, to diminish tensions and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security in a world free from the scourge of war and the burden of armaments,

Recalling also that in paragraph 85 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly 3/ it urged major arms supplier and recipient countries to consult on the limitation of all types of international transfer of conventional arms,

Disturbed by the destabilizing and destructive effects of the illicit arms trade, particularly for the internal situation of affected States and the violation of human rights,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have undertaken to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, and that the reduction of world military expenditures could have a significant positive impact for the social and economic development of all peoples,

Reaffirming the important role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Recalling its resolution 43/75 I of 7 December 1988,

Welcoming the study submitted by the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 43/75 I and prepared with the assistance of governmental experts, on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms, 11/ as well as the problem of the illicit arms trade, taking into account views of Member States and other relevant information,

Recognizing the major contribution of an enhanced level of transparency in armaments to confidence-building and security among States, and also recognizing the urgent need to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, as a first step in this direction, a universal and non-discriminatory register to include data on international arms transfers as well as other interrelated information provided to the Secretary-General,

Stressing the importance of greater transparency in the interest of promoting readiness to exercise restraint in accumulation of armaments,

Considering that the standardized reporting of international arms transfers together with the provision of other interrelated information to a United Nations register will constitute further important steps forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters and, as such, will enhance the role and effectiveness of the United Nations in promoting arms limitation and disarmament, as well as in maintaining international peace and security;

Recognizing also the importance of the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction,

1. Recognizes that an increased level of openness and transparency in the field of armaments would enhance confidence, promote stability, help States to exercise restraint, ease tensions and strengthen regional and international peace and security;

2. Declares its determination to prevent the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of arms, including conventional arms, in order to promote stability and strengthen regional or international peace and security, taking into account the legitimate security needs of States and the principle of undiminished security at the lowest possible level of armaments;

3. Reaffirms the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence recognized in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, which implies that States also have the right to acquire arms with which to defend themselves;

4. Reiterates its conviction, as expressed in its resolution 43/75 I, that arms transfers in all their aspects deserve serious consideration by the international community, inter alia, because of:

(a) Their potential effects in further destabilizing areas where tension and regional conflict threaten international peace and security and national security;

(b) Their potentially negative effects on the progress of the peaceful social and economic development of all peoples;

(c) The danger of increasing illicit and covert arms trafficking;

5. Calls upon all Member States to exercise due restraint in exports and imports of conventional arms, particularly in situations of tension or conflict, and to ensure that they have in place an adequate body of laws and administrative procedures regarding the transfer of arms and to adopt strict measures for their enforcement;

6. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his study on ways and means of promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms, which also addressed the problem of the illicit arms trade;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to establish and maintain at United Nations Headquarters in New York a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms, to include data on international arms transfers as well as information provided by Member States on military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies, as set out in paragraph 10 below and in accordance with procedures and input requirements initially comprising those set out in the annex to the present resolution and subsequently incorporating any adjustments to the annex decided upon by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in the light of the recommendations of the panel referred to in paragraph 8 below;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a panel of governmental technical experts to be nominated by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to elaborate the technical procedures and to make any adjustments to the annex to the present resolution necessary for the effective operation of the Register, and to prepare a report on the modalities for early expansion of the scope of the Register by the addition of further categories of equipment and inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

9. Calls upon all Member States to provide annually for the Register data on imports and exports of arms in accordance with the procedures established by paragraphs 7 and 8 above;

10. Invites Member States, pending the expansion of the Register, also to provide to the Secretary-General, with their annual report on imports and exports of arms, available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies, and requests the Secretary-General to record this material and to make it available for consultation by Member States at their request;

11. Decides, with a view to future expansion, to keep the scope of and the participation in the Register under review, and, to this end:

(a) Invites Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views, not later than 30 April 1994, on:

(i) The operation of the Register during its first two years;

(ii) The addition of further categories of equipment and the elaboration of the Register to include military holdings and procurement through national production;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts convened in 1994 on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the work of the Conference on Disarmament as set forth in paragraphs 12 to 15 below and the views expressed by Member States, for submission to the General Assembly with a view to a decision at its forty-ninth session;

12. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to address, as soon as possible, the question of the interrelated aspects of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of arms, including military holdings and procurement through national production, and to elaborate universal and non-discriminatory practical means to increase openness and transparency in this field;

13. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to address the problems of, and the elaboration of practical means to increase, openness and transparency related to the transfer of high technology with military applications and to weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with existing legal instruments;

14. Invites the Secretary-General to provide to the Conference on Disarmament all relevant information, including, inter alia, views submitted to him by Member States and information provided under the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, as well as on the work of the Disarmament Commission under its agenda item entitled "Objective information on military matters";

15. Further requests the Conference on Disarmament to include in its annual report to the General Assembly a report on its work on this issue;

16. Invites all Member States, in the meantime, to take measures on a national, regional and global basis, including within the appropriate forums, to promote openness and transparency in armaments;

17. Calls upon all Member States to cooperate at a regional and subregional level, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

18. Also invites all Member States to inform the Secretary-General of their national arms import and export policies, legislation and administrative procedures, both as regards authorization of arms transfers and prevention of illicit transfers;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on progress made in implementing the present resolution, including relevant information provided by Member States;

20. Notes that effective implementation of the present resolution will require an up-to-date database system in the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

21. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

66th plenary meeting
9 December 1991

ANNEX

Register of Conventional Arms

1. The Register of Conventional Arms ("the Register") shall be established, with effect from 1 January 1992, and maintained at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

2. Concerning international arms transfers:

(a) Member States are requested to provide data for the Register, addressed to the Secretary-General, on the number of items in the following categories of equipment imported into or exported from their territory:

I. Battle tanks

A tracked or wheeled self-propelled armoured fighting vehicle with high cross-country mobility and a high level of self-protection, weighing at least 16.5 metric tonnes unladen weight, with a high muzzle velocity direct fire main gun of at least 75 millimetres calibre.

II. Armoured combat vehicles

A tracked or wheeled self-propelled vehicle, with armoured protection and cross-country capability, either: (a) designed and equipped to transport a squad of four or more infantrymen, or (b) armed with an integral or organic weapon of at least 20 millimetres calibre or an anti-tank missile launcher.

III. Large calibre artillery systems

A gun, howitzer, artillery piece combining the characteristics of a gun and a howitzer, mortar or multiple-launch rocket system, capable of engaging surface targets by delivering primarily indirect fire, with a calibre of 100 millimetres and above.

IV. Combat aircraft

A fixed-wing or variable-geometry wing aircraft armed and equipped to engage targets by employing guided missiles, unguided rockets, bombs, guns, cannons, or other weapons of destruction.

V. Attack helicopters

A rotary-wing aircraft equipped to employ anti-armour, air-to-ground, or air-to-air guided weapons and equipped with an integrated fire control and aiming system for these weapons.

VI. Warships

A vessel or submarine with a standard displacement of 850 metric tonnes or above, armed or equipped for military use.

VII. Missiles or missile systems

A guided rocket, ballistic or cruise missile capable of delivering a

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payload to a range of at least 25 kilometres, or a vehicle, apparatus or device designed or modified for launching such munitions.

(b) Data on imports provided under the present paragraph shall also specify the supplying State; data on exports shall also specify the recipient State and the State of origin if not the exporting State;

(c) Each Member State is requested to provide data on an annual basis by 30 April each year in respect of imports into and exports from their territory in the previous calendar year;

(d) The first such registration shall take place by 30 April 1993 in respect of the calendar year 1992;

(e) The data so provided shall be recorded in respect of each Member State;

(f) Arms "exports and imports" represent in the present resolution, including its annex, all forms of arms transfers under terms of grant, credit, barter or cash.

3. Concerning other interrelated information:

(a) Member States are invited also to provide to the Secretary-General available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production, and relevant policies;

(b) The information so provided shall be recorded in respect of each Member State.

4. The Register shall be open for consultation by representatives of Member States at any time.

5. In addition, the Secretary-General shall provide annually a consolidated report to the General Assembly of the data registered, together with an index of the other interrelated information.